Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- List the functions of the Situation Unit
- Describe the main responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader (SITL)
- Identify members of the Incident Management Team with whom the Situation Unit Leader interacts most frequently
- List the required reports and types of reports or plans the Situation Unit Leader may produce and/or assist in compiling

Methodology

This unit uses lecture, an exercise, and discussion.

Content from Unit 4 will be tested during the final exam. Instructors will evaluate students' initial understanding of the Situation Unit through the facilitation of Exercise 3.

The purpose of this exercise is to provide participants with the opportunity to practice performing some of the responsibilities of the Situation Unit. The focus will be on information and intelligence needs and how best to provide or display that information.

Time Plan

A suggested Time Plan for this unit is shown below. More or less time may be required, based on the experience level of the group.

Topic	Time
Lesson	2 hours 30 minutes
Exercise 3	1 hour
Total Time	3 hours 30 minutes

Topic Unit Title Slide

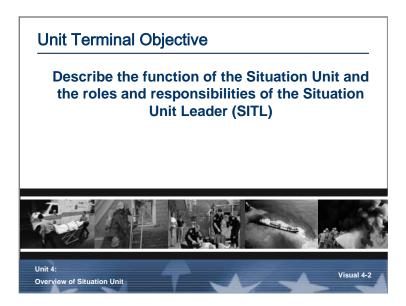


Key Points

Scope Statement

Through this unit, students will gain a general understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Situation Unit. Through discussion of the gathering, processing, and displaying of information and intelligence inherent to the Unit, students will gain insight into the key elements of the Situation Unit within the Incident Command System (ICS).

Topic Unit Terminal Objective



Key Points

Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the function of the Situation Unit and the roles and responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader.

Unit Enabling Objectives

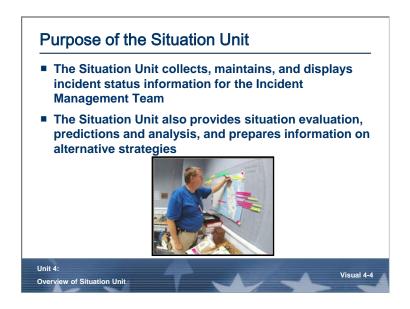
- List the functions of the Situation Unit
- Describe the main responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader
- Identify members of the Incident Management Team (IMT) with whom the Situation Unit Leader interacts most frequently
- List the required reports and types of reports or plans the Situation Unit Leader may produce and/or assist in compiling

Topic Unit Overview



- Purpose of the Situation Unit
- Functions of the Situation Unit
- Responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader
- Situation Unit Resources
- Situation Unit Products
- Situation Unit Interaction with Incident Management Team

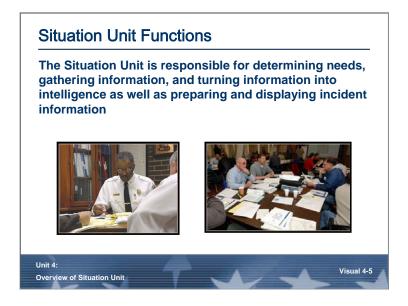
Topic Purpose of the Situation Unit



Key Points

The Situation Unit collects, maintains, and displays incident status information for the Incident Management Team. The Situation Unit also provides situation evaluation, predictions, and analysis, and prepares information on alternative strategies.

Topic Situation Unit Functions

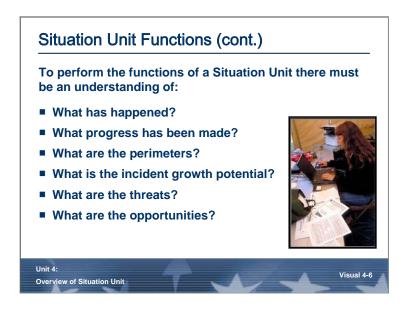


Key Points

Functions of the Situation Unit include:

- Determining informational needs
- Gathering, analyzing, and evaluating incident information to turn it into intelligence
- Preparing and displaying incident information
- Providing mapping, predictive, and risk assessment services
- Submitting reports and documentation

Topic Situation Unit Functions (cont.)



Key Points

The Situation Unit provides situational awareness:

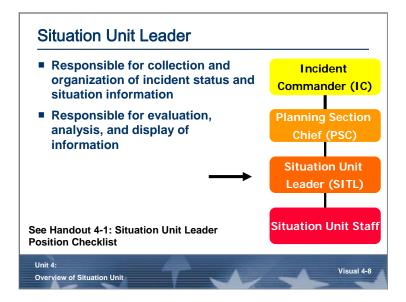
- What is it?
- What happened?
- Where have we been?
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- What is going to happen next?
- What we can do next?

To perform the functions of a Situation Unit there must be an understanding of:

- What has happened?
- What progress has been made?
- What are the perimeters?
- What is the incident growth potential?
- What are the threats?
- What are the opportunities?



Topic Situation Unit Leader



Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader is responsible for collecting, processing, and organizing all of the incident information. The Situation Unit may also prepare projections of incident growth, maps, and intelligence information.

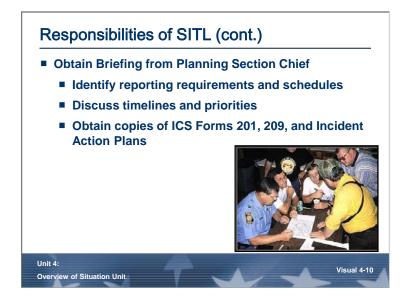
Some useful references for the Situation Unit Leader are:

- ICS Field Operations Guide
- SITL Field Reference Guide

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader



Key Points

Obtain briefing from Planning Section Chief

- Check in
- Meet with PSC
 - Identify scheduling issues
 - Determine timelines, priorities, and expectations
- Survey current situation
- Begin collection and analysis of incident data as soon as possible
- Survey anticipated intelligence and display needs
 - Incident Management Team's needs
 - Cooperators' needs

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



Key Points

Responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader include organizing, staffing, and supervising the unit.

- Brief Technical Specialists on current incident status
- Assign analysis tasks
- Notify staff of timelines, priorities, and format requirements
- Monitor progress
- Assemble staff and manage unit to provide intelligence, based on:
 - Quality information
 - Timely information
 - Constantly updated information
 - Accurate and usable displays of information
 - Information that has been verified and analyzed

On a day-to-day basis, more of the Planning Section Chief's time will be spent managing work associated with the Resources Unit than the Situation Unit, unless there is a problem. Ensure that you have good people to support you.

Topic Staffing Considerations



Key Points

Plan ahead and maintain a list of personnel you can call on.

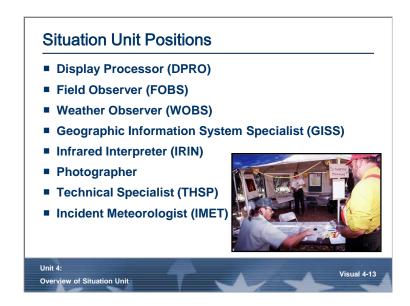
Staffing considerations include:

- Workload
- Lag time and travel time
- Staffing hours
- Size and complexity
- Incident Management Team needs and products
- Public impact
- Imaging needs
- Projection needs
- Threats and risks
- On-scene personnel

Manage span of control and organize by using manager positions.

- Do not duplicate positions or jobs done by other positions and keep the work as streamlined as possible
- Only activate positions that are really needed
- Assign the right people to the right job for the right reason

Topic Situation Unit Positions



Key Points

Display Processor (DPRO)

Responsible for the display of incident status information obtained from Field Observers, resource status reports, aerial and orthography photographs, and infrared data. The Display Processor:

- Determines number, types, and location of displays required
- Determines map requirements for the Incident Action Plan
- Assists the Situation Unit Leader in analyzing and evaluating field reports

Field Observer (FOBS)

Responsible for collecting situation information from personal observations at the incident and providing information to the Situation Unit Leader, The Field Observer:

- Identifies all facility locations
- Immediately reports any condition observed that may cause a danger and safety hazard to personnel
- Gathers intelligence that leads to accurate predictions

Weather Observer (WOBS)

- Responsible for collecting current incident weather information and providing the information to the Situation Unit Leader
- Records and reports weather observations at assigned locations on schedule

Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)

Provides mapping services. Many GIS staff are required to do this work. They produce great looking things that can be useful for Volunteers in Police Service.

The PSC may have to limit access to Geographic Information Specialists. All map requests should come through the Planning Section Chief.

Infrared Interpreter (IRIN)

Not used as frequently because line scan infrared is not used anymore.

Photographer

Typically works with Compensation and Claims in the Finance Section.

Technical Specialist (THSP)

Technical Specialist may report or support different units within the Planning Section Incident Command.

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



Key Points

Another responsibility of the Situation Unit Leader is to compile, analyze, and maintain incident status information. Responsibilities include:

- Monitoring threat level events and developing incidents
- Sorting data into required categories of information
- Reviewing all data for completeness, accuracy, and relevancy
- Ensuring that status is kept up-to-date

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



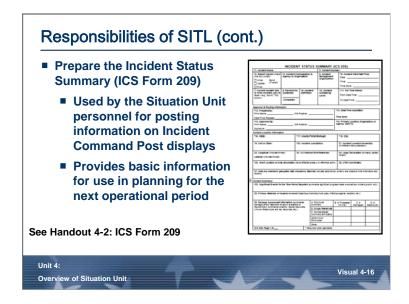
Key Points

The Incident Management Team may need a variety of intelligence to assist them in planning for their mission. It is the Situation Unit Leader's responsibility to prepare, post, or disseminate resource and situation information.

- Determine appropriate displays
- Develop additional displays, as necessary
- Ensure displays are kept up-to-date
- Review all

The Incident Management Team will use every piece of information the Situation Unit produces. You cannot possibly produce everything they could ever want. The Planning Section Chief has to prioritize.

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



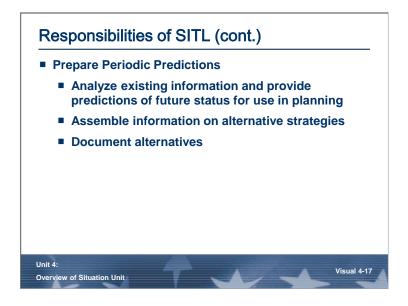
Key Points

The ICS Form 209 – Incident Status Summary is prepared by the Situation Unit. Resource information is obtained from the Resources Unit.

The ICS Form 209 – Incident Status Summary serves the following purposes:

- It is used by Situation Unit personnel to post information on Incident Command Post displays
- When duplicated and distributed to Command Staff members, it provides them with basic information for planning for the next operational period
- It provides basic information to the Public Information Officer for the preparation of media releases
- It provides incident information to agency dispatch and off-incident coordination centers

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)

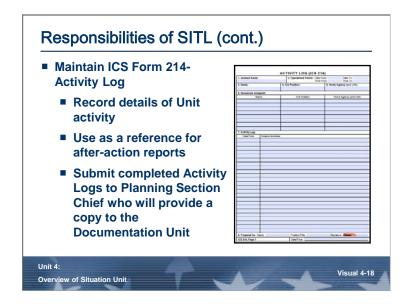


Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader provides situation evaluation, prediction, and analysis for the Incident Commander and Operations Section Chief and prepares information on alternative strategies. Responsibilities include:

- Analyzing existing information and providing predictions of future status for use in planning
- Assembling information on alternative strategies
- Identifying resources required to implement contingency plans
- Documenting alternatives for presentation to Incident Commander and Operations

Topic Responsibilities of Situation Unit Leader (cont.)



Key Points

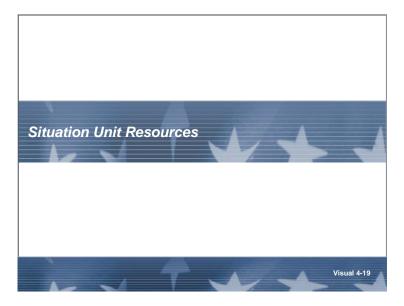
Another responsibility of the Situation Unit Leader is to maintain the ICS Form 214 – Activity Log.

The Activity Log is used to record details of Unit activity. The file of these logs provides a basic reference from which to extract information for inclusion in any after-action reports.

An Activity Log is initiated and maintained by Command Staff members, Division/Group Supervisors, Air Operations Groups, Strike Teams/Task Force Leaders, and Unit Leaders. Completed logs are forwarded to Supervisors, who provide copies to the Documentation Unit.

The Documentation Unit maintains a file of all activity. It is necessary that one copy of each log be submitted to the Documentation Unit.

Topic Situation Unit Resources



Topic Information Sources



Key Points

Resources for Intelligence

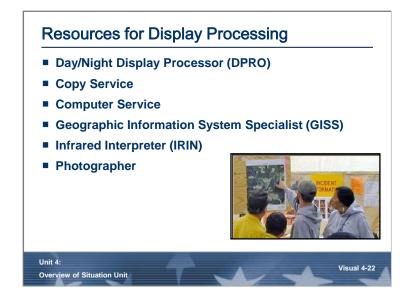
- Field Observers
 - Day and night
 - Single vs. buddy system
 - Special skills
 - Monitoring equipment
- Meteorologist
- Imaging
- State or local agency
- Technical Specialists

Topic Information Sources (cont.)



- Debriefing Operations Personnel
 - Set up table where Operations personnel have to pass
 - For example, if a map of the building or flood needs to be created, information can be obtained by interviewing Operations personnel as they finish their shift
- Coordinate with Air Support Group Supervisor (ASGS)
 - They schedule flights, look at fires, flights, and floods
 - They will be using the same helicopters that Operations and Volunteers in Police Service will be using
 - Great source of information
 - Availability might be limited
- Locals can be some of your best Technical Specialists

Topic Resources for Display Processing

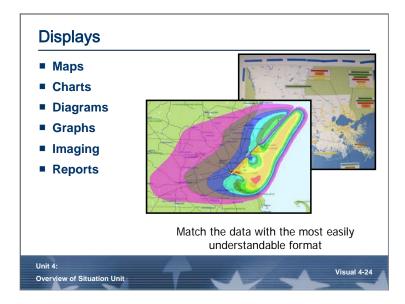


- Day/Night Display Processor (DPRO)
 - Collects data, prepares displays, and drafts reports
- Copy Service
 - Makes sure whoever is doing the copying will make it happen
- Computer Service
- Geographic Information System Specialist (GISS)
 - Great source of information that is difficult to come by
- Infrared Interpreter (IRIN)
- Photographer

Topic Situation Unit Products



Topic Displays



Key Points

Make sure you match the data with the most easily understandable format.

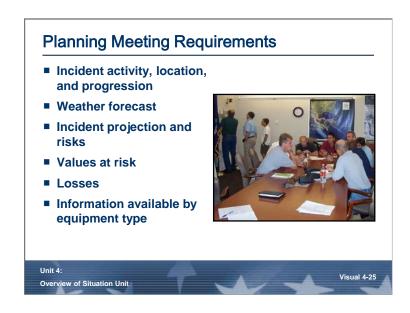
Develop visuals check to ensure the information is understandable.

- Do those viewing the displayed data understand what's going on?
- Is the information being disseminated to the people who really need to know?

Maps and displays often speed up and/or improve comprehension of intelligence reports.

Topic

Planning Meeting Requirements



Key Points

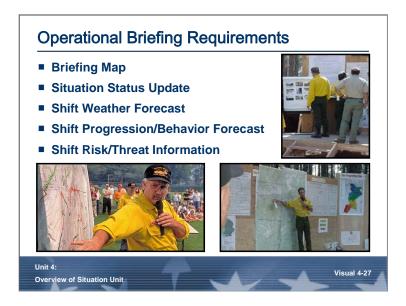
Importance of each Planning Meeting requirement:

- Incident activity, location, and progression
- Produce a plot of the incident perimeter, operational boundaries, and facilities, which may be on:
 - Topographical maps
 - Planemetric maps
 - Nautical charts
 - CAD drawings
 - At a minimum, prepare a sketch
- Spot weather forecast
- Incident projection
- Values at risk
- Losses
- Information available by equipment type
- Potential drop points, helispots, staging areas, shelters, and mobile lab locations

Topic IAP Requirements



Topic Operational Briefing Requirements



Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader needs to provide products for the Operational Briefing, which may include:

- Briefing Map
 - Often a large, not-to-scale sketch
 - Visibility most important
 - Shows talking points
 - Must be delivered on time and reflect current information
 - Large incidents may require multiple Geographic Information System maps
- Situation Status Update
- Shift Weather Forecast
- Shift Progression/Behavior Forecast
- Shift Risk/Threat Information

Topic Information Board Requirements

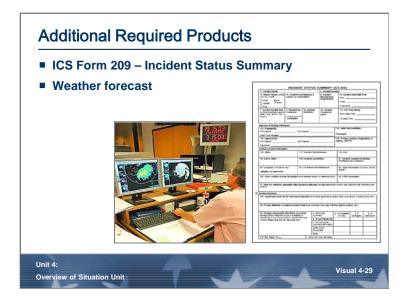


Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader needs to provide products for the Information Boards, which may include copies of:

- Facilities Map
- Transportation Map
- Incident Action Plan
- ICS Form 209

Topic Additional Required Products



Key Points

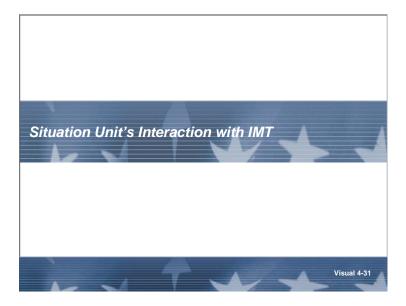
Additional required products from the Situation Unit:

- ICS Form 209 Incident Status Summary
- Weather forecast

Topic Potential Products

Potential Products Projection Damage Assessment Contingency Evacuation Resource Protection Risks and Hazards Decontamination and Disposal Cleanup and Recovery Monitoring and Sampling Unit 4: Overview of Situation Unit

Topic Situation Unit Interaction with Incident Management Team



Topic Incident Commander



Key Points

- Keep the Incident Commander updated on incident status, damages, and threats
- Maintain maps in the Incident Commander's work area
- Get Incident Commander approval of ICS Form 209
- Obtain Incident Commander approval before releasing documents

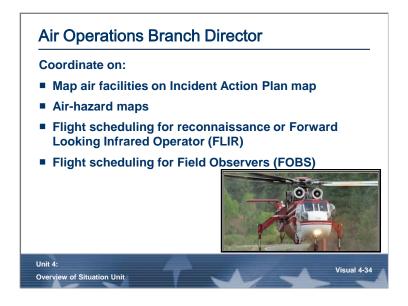
Topic Operations Section Chief



Key Points

- Provide information on incident status, projections, risks, threats, and hazards, as well as damage, evacuation, and mitigation techniques to the Operations Section Chief
- Provide mapping and imaging services to the Operations Section Chief
- Obtain incident progress, planned actions, and priority information for ICS Form 209

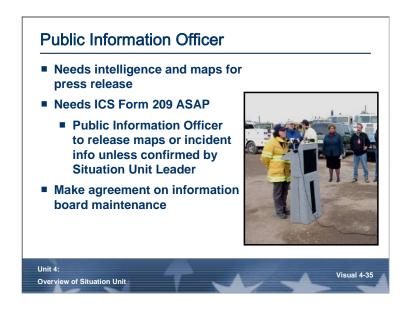
Topic Air Operations Branch Director



Key Points

- Map air facilities on Incident Action Plan map
- Coordinate flight scheduling for reconnaissance, Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR),
 Field Observers (FOBS) for the Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD)

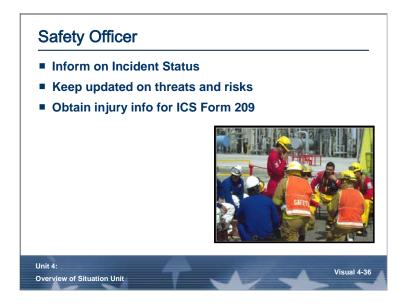
Topic Public Information Officer



Key Points

- Keep Public Information Officer (PIO) updated on incident status, damages, and threats
- Prepare maps and visual support for public release as requested by the Public Information Officer
- Provide the Public Information Officer an Incident Status Summary (ICS Form 209), as soon as it is approved

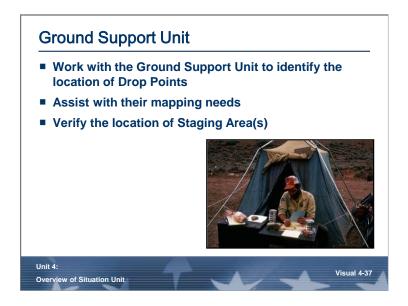
Topic Safety Officer



Key Points

- Keep the Safety Officer updated on status, threats, and risks
- Obtain information on injuries from the ICS Form 209 Incident Status Summary

Topic Ground Support Unit



Key Points

- Assist with Traffic Plan by providing information on road conditions, routes, and possible drop points and staging areas
- Prepare Traffic Plan Map with approval of Ground Support

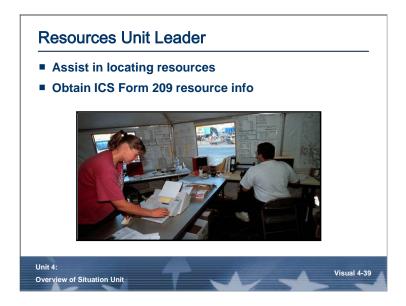
Topic Facilities Unit Leader



Key Points

- Assist Facilities Unit Leader in locating sites for incident facilities
- Prepare the Facilities Map

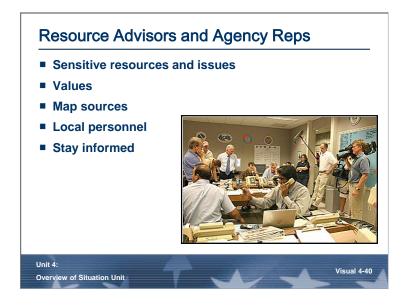
Topic Resources Unit Leader



Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader must obtain resource information from the Resources Unit Leader for ICS Form 209 – Incident Status Summary. At times Field Observers may be able to assist the Resources Unit with information on the location of resources.

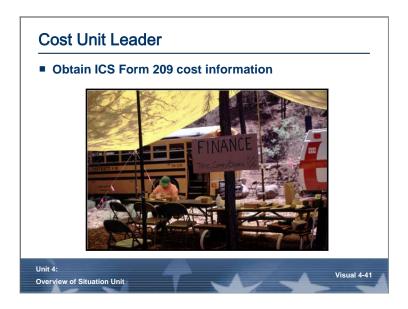
Topic Resource Advisors & Agency Representatives



Key Points

- Obtain information on sensitive resources, values, and map sources
- Keep the Resource Advisors and Agency Representatives informed

Topic Cost Unit Leader



Key Points

The Situation Unit Leader must obtain cost information from the Cost Unit Leader for the ICS Form 209 – Incident Status Summary.

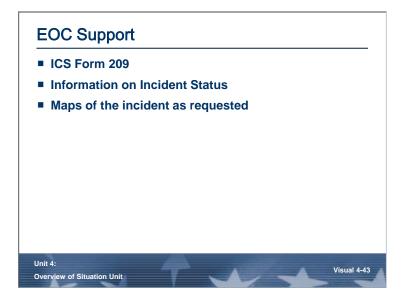
Topic Compensation and Claims Unit Leader



Key Points

- Provide assistance to the Claims Unit on documenting damage, creating maps, and photos
- Provide assistance to the Compensation and Claims Unit Leader in documenting claims against the incident
- Provide intelligence to many persons and/or agencies not on the Incident Management Team
- Be prepared for surprise briefing requests from:
 - Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
 - Agency Representatives and Dispatchers
 - VIPs

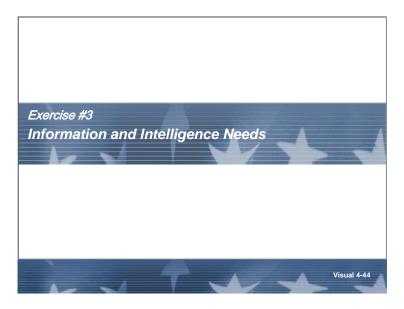
Topic EOC Support



Key Points

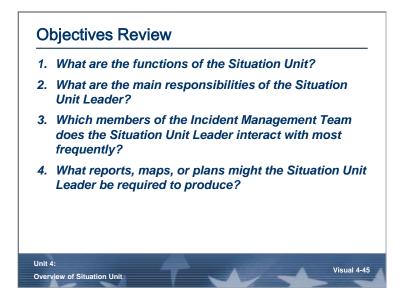
- Provide intelligence to many persons and/or agencies not on the Incident Management Team
- Be prepared for surprise briefing requests from:
 - Emergency Operation Center
 - o ICS Form 209
 - Information on Incident Status
 - Maps of the incident as requested

Topic Exercise 3



Key Points

Topic Objectives Review



Key Points

Unit Terminal Objective

Describe the function of the Situation Unit and the roles and responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader.

Unit Enabling Objectives

- List the functions of the Situation Unit
- Describe the main responsibilities of the Situation Unit Leader
- Identify members of the Incident Management Team that the Situation Unit Leader interacts with most frequently
- List the required reports and types of reports or plans the Situation Unit Leader may produce and/or assist with